

探索文化通过食物

我是美籍華人。儘管成長在中國文化的家庭中，但是在美國生活，我習慣吃美國的食物，但是也學會了吃中國的食物。我小的時候，跟我的家人到過中國很多次。當我去中國的時候，我總是盼望在小吃攤吃小吃。我記得有一次在上海吃到我最喜歡的小吃糖葫蘆和蒸餃。可是我通常去香港，因為我有家人住在那裡。香港也有很多小吃攤，全年都在路邊，比如臭豆腐，鷄蛋仔，咖哩魚蛋和腸粉。不同季節有不同的小吃；有一年冬天我吃過烤紅薯和糖炒栗子。因為我對花生和魚過敏，我沒能吃所有的小吃，所以在我看來，好像我一直沒能完全了解中國文化。食物是中國文化一個很重要的部分。我相信，通過食物，你可以更好地了解一個地方的文化。

我希望在美國有像中國那麼多的小吃攤。除了一些賣食品的卡車以外，在美國沒有小吃攤。食品卡車像移動式的餐館，不僅只是賣美國食品，還有賣墨西哥菜、咖啡和紙杯小蛋糕。有時候在這種食物卡車可以找到融合了不同地方的食物，像韓國式的墨西哥包餅。在美國的中國餐廳，你們不會看到道地的中國小吃，因為很多美國人覺得那樣的菜很奇怪。他們會覺得臭豆腐臭死了，章魚也很可怕。美國人不習慣吃各種不同的食物，所以你會發現，很多人看到中國的小吃，可能會嚇壞了！

雖然美國人不習慣吃各種不同的食物，美國人和中國人都喜歡用相機照自己食物的圖片。因為有這些有趣的食物圖片，所以我覺得很多人看了以後都想試試中國的小吃。這樣的社交媒體是可以讓大家很容易探索新的文化。這個暑假我會去台灣留學學習語言。除了學習中文以外，我還可以通過吃美食學習台灣文化。我很期待試試正宗的珍珠奶茶和鳳梨酥

Vocabulary

- 美籍華人 → Měi jí huárén → asian american
- 儘管 → jǐnguǎn → despite; although
- 成長 → chéngzhǎng → growing up
- 生活 → shēnghuó → life
- 習慣 → xíguàn → used to; habit
- 當 → dāng → when; during
- 總是 → zǒng shì → always
- 盼望 → pànwàng → look forward to
- 小吃攤 → xiǎochī tān → street food stall
- 記得 → jìdé → to remember
- 糖葫蘆 → táng húlu → sugarcoated fruit (chinese snack)
- 蒸餃 → zhēng jiǎo → steamed dumpling
- 通常 → tōngcháng → usually; normally
- 香港 → xiānggǎng → Hong Kong
- 全年 → quán nián → all year long
- 路邊 → lù biān → roadside; curb
- 臭豆腐 → chòu dòufu → stinky tofu

- 鷄蛋仔 → jīdàn zǐ → egg puffs
- 咖哩魚蛋 → gālǐ yú dàn → curry fish balls
- 腸粉 → cháng fěn → rice noodle rolls
- 烤紅薯 → kǎo hóngshǔ → roasted sweet potatoes
- 糖炒栗子 → táng chǎo lìzi → roasted chestnuts
- 花生 → huāshēng → peanuts
- 過敏 → guòmǐn → allergy; allergic to
- 所有 → suǒyǒu → all
- 看來 → kàn lái → apparently
- 完全 → wánquán → totally; whole; entirely
- 了解 → liǎojiě → to understand
- 重要 → zhòngyào → important; significant
- 部分 → bùfèn → thing; part
- 相信 → xiāngxìn → to believe
- 通過 → tōngguò → by means of
- 更 → gèng → more
- 希望 → xīwàng → to wish
- 食品卡車 → shípǐn kǎchē → food truck
- 移動式 → yídòng shì → mobile
- 不僅 → bùjǐn → not only
- 紙杯小蛋糕 → zhǐbēi xiǎo dàngāo → cupcakes
- 這種 → zhè zhǒng → this kind of; this
- 融合 → rónghé → fusion; mixture
- 包餅 → bāo bǐng → flour tortilla
- 道地 → dào dì → authentic; original
- 那樣 → nà yàng → that kind; that sort
- 臭死了 → chòu sǐ le → stink to death (expression)
- 章魚 → zhāngyú → octopus
- 可怕 → kěpà → scary
- 各種 → gèzhǒng → all kinds of; various kinds
- 發現 → fāxiàn → to find; to discover
- 可能 → kěnéng → possible
- 嚇壞 → xià huài → to be really frightened
- 相機 → xiàngjī → camera
- 照 → zhào → to take a photo
- 圖片 → túpiàn → picture
- 有趣 → yǒuqù → interesting
- 試試 → shì shì → to try
- 這樣 → zhè yàng → this kind of
- 社交媒體 → shèjiāo méitǐ → social media
- 讓 → ràng → to let
- 探索 → tàn suǒ → to explore
- 語言 → yǔyán → language
- 通過 → tōngguò → by means of
- 期待 → qīdài → look forward to
- 正宗 → zhèngzōng → authentic; genuine
- 鳳梨酥 → fènglí sū → pineapple cake

English Translation

I am a Chinese-American. Although I grew up in a Chinese cultured household, I live in an American life; I am accustomed to eating American food and Chinese food. When I was little, I used to go to China a lot of time with my family. When I got to China, I always look forward to going to the little street food stalls to eat some food. I remember one time when I went to Shanghai, I ate one of my favorite street foods; sugar-coated fruits that were skewered on a stick and steamed dumplings. Except I don't go there often, and instead I usually go to Hong Kong because I have family members that live there. Hong Kong, like in Shanghai, has a lot of street food stalls. All year round there are stalls located on the curbside, where they sell things

like stinky tofu, egg puffs, curry fish balls, and rice noodle rolls. During different seasons there are different kinds of street foods available; like during the winter you can eat baked sweet potatoes and roasted chestnuts. Because I am allergic to peanuts and fish, I can't eat all of the street foods available; therefore I can't completely understand the Chinese culture. Food plays a big part in influencing the Chinese culture. I believe that through food, one can gain more knowledge and understanding of the culture in that particular place.

In American, I wish they had just as much street food stalls as they do in China. Besides food trucks, there aren't any street food stalls here in America. Food trucks are like mobile restaurants that go around from place to place. Food trucks don't only just sell American food, but they can also a variety of items such as Mexican food, coffee, and cupcakes. Sometimes there are food trucks that will sell fusion foods, for example a fusion between Korean and Mexican in a kalbi taco. In Chinese restaurants found in America, you will not find many authentic kinds of Chinese snacks because there are lots of Americans who think that many Chinese dishes are strange and unusual. For example, many think that stinky tofu is too stinky to handle, and octopus is too scary. Americans are not accustomed to eating a large variety and diversity of food, in fact American food is very limited, that many will immediately be too afraid to try and eat Chinese street foods.

Although Americans aren't accustomed to eating a large variety of food, Americans and Chinese both like to take photos of their food because food photos bring in a lot of interest from others. I think that through these pictures, after seeing them many are more inclined in trying it. This form of social media has the power to help people explore new kinds of cultures. This summer vacation I will be going to Taiwan to study abroad. Besides learning Chinese in Taiwan, I would like to learn about the Taiwanese culture through food. I will be looking forward to try authentic bubble milk tea and pineapple cake.